



AMERICAN HUMANE

The Front Porch Project®



Opening Activity

- Think back to the earliest neighborhood that you lived in.
- Using the paper and colored pencils provided, create a drawing of that neighborhood – the places you played, the people you knew, the places you were not allowed to go, etc.





As a Community Member . . .



- How many times have you witnessed a parent struggling with a child in the midst of a tantrum in a public place?
- Have you ever been concerned that your neighbor is leaving her young children home alone?
- How often have you observed a child in your neighborhood playing unsupervised in the street?

As a Community Member . . .



**How often
have you struggled
with questions about
whether or how to help?**





The Front Porch Project®



The Front Porch Project® is a community-based, primary prevention initiative based on the belief that **everyone** can -- and should -- **become more aware of how to help protect children in their own community**, and provides people with the knowledge, training and encouragement they need to become involved.

The Front Porch Project®:

Designed To Address Critical Needs

- In the U.S. in 2007, there were an estimated **794,000 confirmed child abuse/neglect** cases
- Represents more than a three-fold increase in less than twenty years
- Too much emphasis on the role of the professional, which has discouraged people from getting involved
- Lost sense of “community”
- Studies show people want to help and they **can** make a difference!



Public Opinion on Child Maltreatment



- In 2003, Prevent Child Abuse America looked at public opinion of child maltreatment and found that Americans:
 - Picture the worst-case scenario
 - Believe it's harder to be a parent today than in years past and parents are doing a poor job at raising their children
 - Have misunderstandings about child development and what to expect from children of certain ages

Public Opinion on Child Maltreatment (cont'd)

- In 2003, Prevent Child Abuse America looked at public opinion of child maltreatment and found that Americans:
 - Believe parenting is an important responsibility for which most are not prepared
 - Believe there are severe consequences for children who are abused or neglected
 - See child maltreatment as a serious problem, but do not believe they can do anything to prevent it



American Humane Association

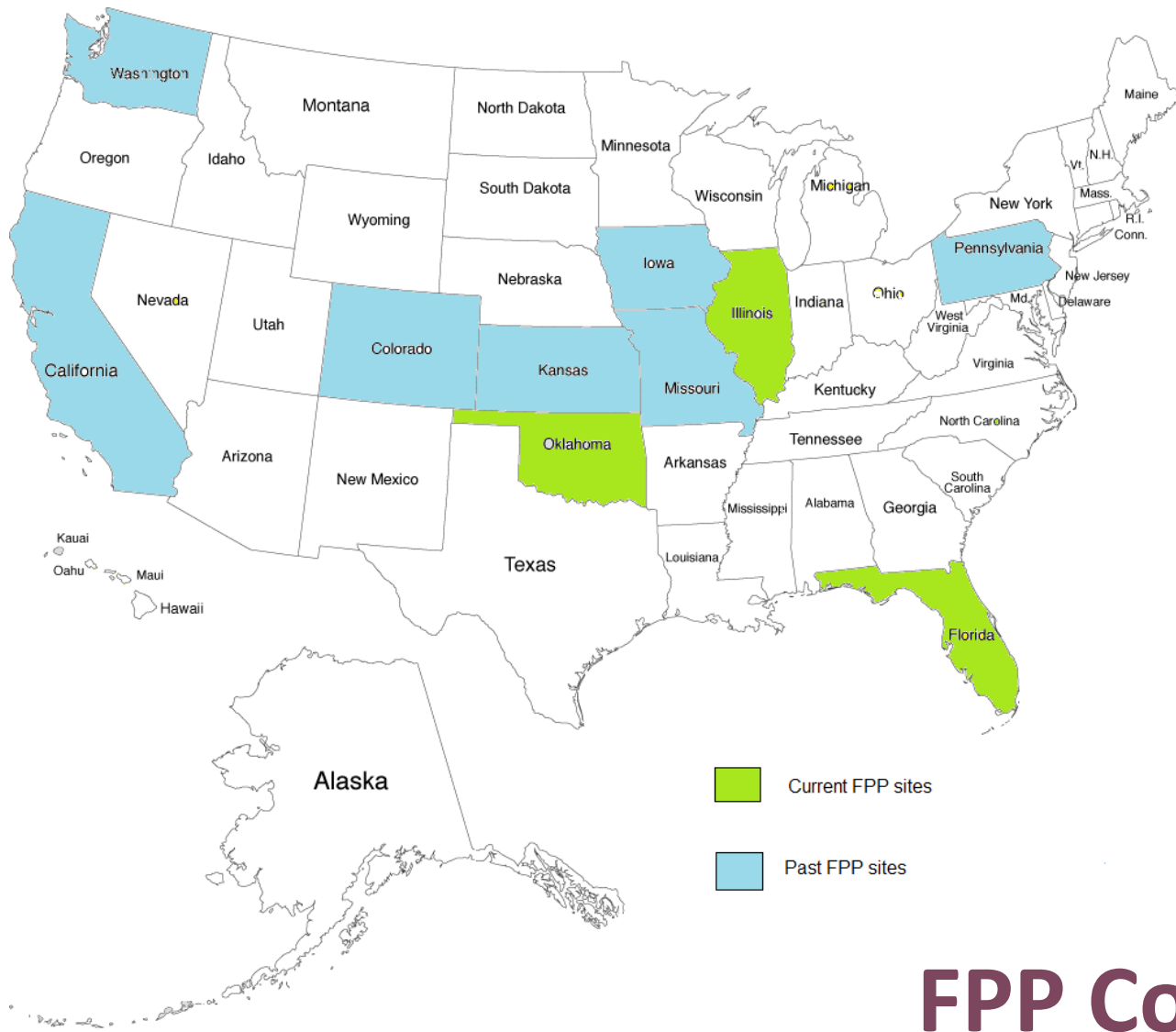


- What does American Humane's Children's Division do?
 - Increase child safety, permanency, and child and family well-being by advancing child welfare practices, standards and policies that help children and strengthen vulnerable families.
 - Improve and enhance the abilities of child welfare systems and communities to respond to child abuse and neglect by offering information, training, technical assistance and research/evaluation.
 - **Work to prevent child maltreatment through increased community awareness and responsiveness to at-risk children and families.**



History of The Front Porch Project[®] (FPP) at American Humane

- Signature program of the Children's Division developed in 1997
- 1997-2000: Community Training provided to 15 different organizations in CA, CO, IA, KS, KY, MO, PA, WA
- 1999-2000: FPP reconfigured to include Train-the-Trainer, increased community sustainability of the project
- 2000-Present: TTT provided 25+ times to urban, rural and culturally-diverse communities in FL, IL, WA & OK



FPP Communities

Stages of Implementation

Major implementation initiatives occur in stages:

- **Exploration**
 - Determine which initiative meets your needs
 - Formalize structures and create readiness for change
- **Installation**
 - Make the structural and instrumental changes necessary to initiate the program
- **Initial Implementation**
 - Learn from mistakes
 - Continue “buy-in” efforts
 - Manage expectations
- **Full implementation**
 - Maintaining and improving
 - Components integrated and fully functioning
- **Innovation**
 - First do it right
 - Then, do it different and better
- **Sustainability**
 - Ensure funding streams for initiative
 - Ensure high fidelity and positive outcomes

Source: Fixsen, Naoom, Blase, Friedman & Wallace, 2005



Implementing The Front Porch Project in Local Communities



- Phase I: Technical Assistance
- Phase II: Two-Day Initial Community Training
- Phase III: Two-Day Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Session
- Phase IV: Evaluation & On-Going Technical Assistance



Phase I: Technical Assistance



- Research & exploration by potential sustaining site
 - American Humane provides resources about The Front Porch Project model, contact information for active community sites, budget estimate, and other necessary information
 - Potential partner site examines capacity to fund and sustain the initiative
 - American Humane and potential partner site coordinate a Community Informational Meeting (optional)
- Contract made between potential partner site and American Humane to initiate The Front Porch Project
- Local site begins participant recruitment and selection for Phase II

Examining Site Capacity



- **Who are the Sustainers?**

An organization or agency in the community that has the vision, mission, philosophy, infrastructure, and connections to initiate, maintain and sustain the initiative.

- **Who are the Connectors?**

Individuals, neighborhood associations, organizations, agencies, or faith-based groups who can participate in the project and/or identify other participants.



- **Who are the Supporters?**

Foundations, corporations, agencies, and organizations to provide funds and other in-kind resources to support and maintain the project.

Phase II: Two-Day Initial Community Training



- Provided by American Humane in the local community
- Days 1 and 2 are delivered 4-6 weeks apart
- Desired outcomes for participants:
 - Increased knowledge of child abuse and neglect
 - Change in personal beliefs about vulnerable children and families
 - Gained skills for helping or intervening to protect children and support families
 - Change in attitude about personally intervening in the future



The Front Porch Project®:

Community Training Day 1

- Identify when and how to get involved.
- Review definitions, dynamics, and indicators of child abuse and neglect.
- Explore range of parenting approaches.
- Discuss ways of disciplining and caring for children that can lead to abuse or neglect.
- Identify positive parenting and intervention strategies.
- Discuss how to ensure personal safety.
- Model and role-play possible responses/interventions.
- Develop a personal action plan.
- Complete an evaluation of the training.



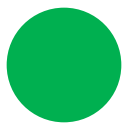
The Front Porch Project®: Community Training Day 2



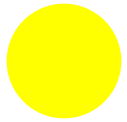
- Discuss participants' involvement experiences since first training.
- Identify “roadblocks” to SAFE action and ways to “break through.”
- Examine our personal approaches to action – how culture, gender and socioeconomics influence behavior.
- Review issues that impact the functioning of parents, children and families.
- Discuss resiliency – how children bounce back from difficulty.
- Discuss importance of prevention.
- Model and role-play additional responses/interventions.
- Complete an evaluation of the training.



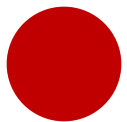
Would I Help? Scenario



“Yes, I would definitely do something for this family.”



“Maybe I would do something.”



“No, I would not feel comfortable getting involved in this situation.”



Would I Help? Scenario

You and your family are attending a Cinco de Mayo parade in your town, where you managed to get seats right at the edge of the street. As the parade begins – with cars and people moving along the parade route – you see the woman next to you struggling with her toddler, who keeps running into the street. She continues to yell at her daughter and grab her each time she runs onto the street, but you can see she is becoming more and more frustrated with her. What do you do?

Key Messages of The Front Porch Project®



- How to Intervene: S.A.F.E. Steps
- Continuum of Comfort
- The Power of One



Steps for Helping Children Stay SAFE

- S** Scan the Situation
- A** Act on the Situation
- F** Follow-Up
- E** Evaluate Your Actions



Continuum of Comfort

Direct

(talk to a parent,
offer your help)

Indirect

(write an article,
work to change a system)

Intervention

(do something
when you see a problem)

Prevention

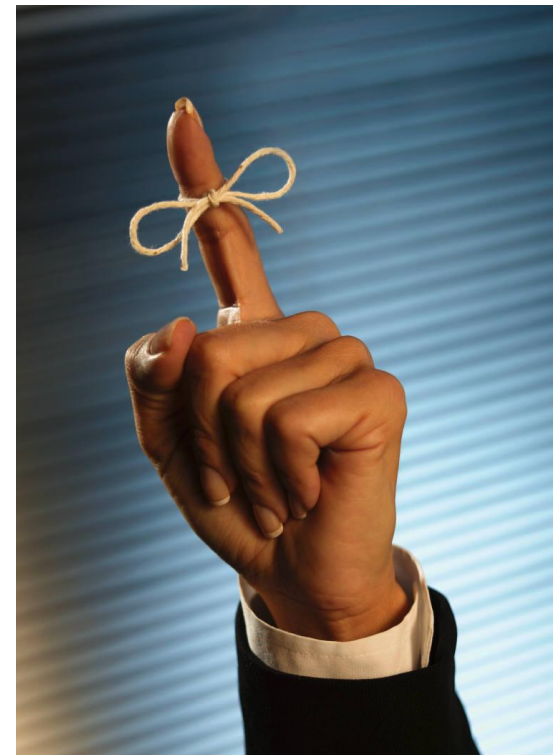
(be a mentor, work to improve
child health services)



The Power of One



- Any intervention, no matter how small, has the power to make a difference.
- We never know how we touch the lives of others.
- We can build on the natural strengths and resiliency of children and families to support them through difficult times.





The Front Porch Project®

Interventions . . .

- In the store, offered to help a mom struggling with two boys.
- Reached out to my sister and her kids.
- Offered to pick up a neighbor's child, instead of letting the child be home alone.
- Started an after-school program at our community center.
- Talked to a parent when she began to get angry with her child.
- Validated a family member for positive parenting.
- Met my neighbors.
- Developed safety activities for kids.
- Saw a situation of clear abuse and called CPS instead of ignoring it.

What Participants Said. . .

- “We can play a role, no matter how big or small, to make changes.”
- “The Front Porch Project® empowers you and helps you muster courage to intervene.”
- “The Front Porch Project® gives you permission to get involved in a way that’s acceptable.”
- “You learn how to be a better parent, better citizen, and to help children in your community.”





Phase III: Two-Day Train-the-Trainer Session

- Always provided by American Humane in the local community to prepare interested individuals to deliver the Community Training in their communities (through coordination with local partner agency)
- Enhances sustainability and community ownership of initiative
- Days 1 and 2 are delivered right after Day 2 of the Initial Community Training

The Front Porch Project®: Train-the-Trainer Session

- Positive training experiences.
- How to set up a Community Training.
- Detailed review of the curricula, from a trainer's perspective.
- Successful and skillful training techniques.
- Exploring personal challenges and fears regarding training.
- Preparation, practice, and delivery of a section of the curricula.
- Process practice experiences, including peer feedback.
- Discuss next steps for working with local partner agency to set up and conduct Community Trainings.



Phase IV: Evaluation & On-Going Technical Assistance

Evaluation – How do we know FPP is working?

- Participants complete Training Evaluation Questionnaires after each day of training
- Participants create Individualized Action Plans
- On-going follow up with participants (at 6-weeks, 6-months and 12-months post-training)
- Submission of training evaluation data to American Humane for comparison across sites
- Use of NCANDS data from each FPP community





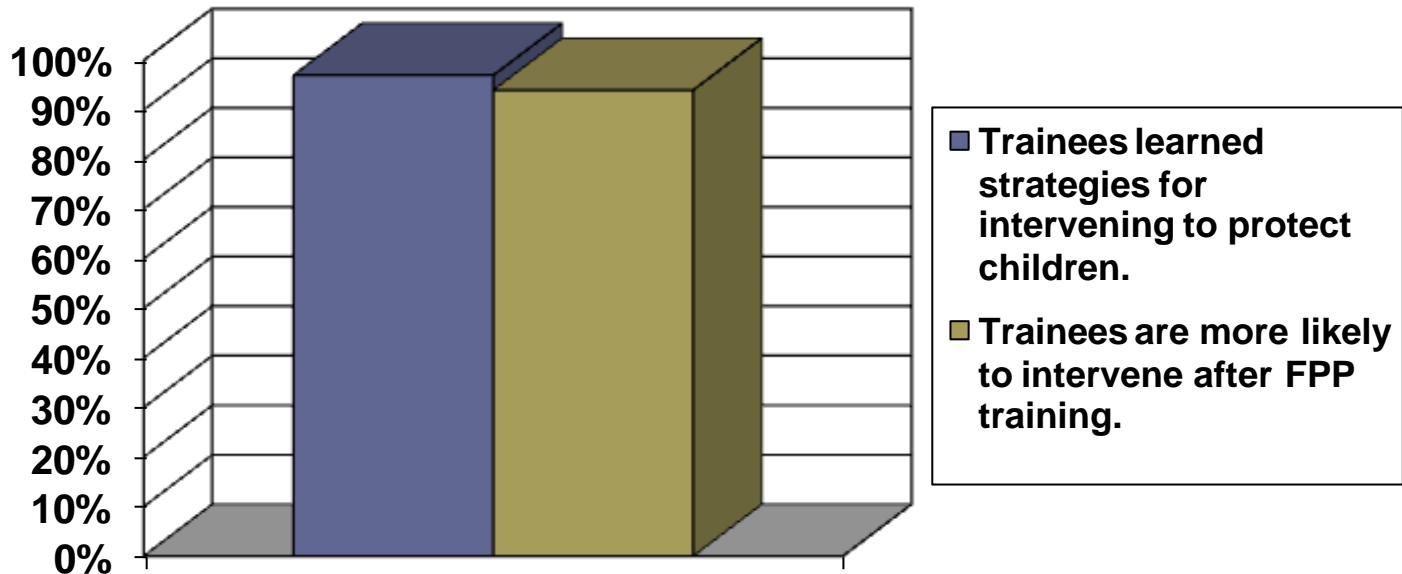
Evaluation Components

- **Knowledge:** How has knowledge about topics changed (i.e., child abuse and neglect, safety, etc.)?
- **Beliefs:** How have beliefs about personal responsibility and involvement changed?
- **Attitudes:** How have attitudes about helping and getting involved changed?
- **Behavior:** How has behavior changed—how are their actions different? How have they impacted others in their community?



Summary of Evaluation Results

*In one Front Porch Project state,
more than 725 training evaluations from 2002–2008 showed. . .*



Phase IV: Evaluation & On-Going Technical Assistance

On-Going Technical Assistance

- American Humane provides on-going technical assistance to local project partner site through various activities, including:
 - Training Implementation Toolkit from American Humane (Training Preparation Checklists; CD-ROM with electronic versions of curriculum, handouts and training materials; Evaluation Plan and materials)
 - Consultation on developing capacity of trainers and organizing Community Trainings
 - Additional training and/or coaching of local trainers through conference calls and webinars
 - Presentations to possible funders with local project staff
 - Organization of conference calls and webinars for all active Front Porch Project sites (nationally)
 - Providing sites with cross-site evaluation data summaries
 - Providing site with Year 1 Final Report which summarizes all activities and evaluation data from Year 1 of the project



For More Information About Implementing The Front Porch Project®

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